

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 108449

42

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 SSO-00 /021 R

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ARA/PAF:RVFIMBRES (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, BL

SUBJECT: GULF BRIBERY CHARGES

1. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WERE PREPARED FOR THE
DEPARTMENT'S MAY 9 PRESS BRIEFING FOR USE ON AN "IF ASKED"
BASIS.

2. QUESTION: CAN THE DEPARTMENT SHED ANY LIGHT ON SPECULATION
THAT BOLIVIA MAY BE THE COUNTRY INVOLVED IN THE
REPORTED \$4.2 MILLION PAY-OFF WHICH THE GULF OIL COMPANY
HAS INDICATED IT MADE TO AN UNIDENTIFIED GOVERNMENT IN ORDER
TO CONTINUE ITS OPERATIONS THERE?

ANSWER: WE UNDERSTAND FROM PRESS REPORTS THAT GULF HAS
INFORMED THE GOB THAT THE MATTER IS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY A
SPECIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE AND THAT GULF WILL MAKE THE FACTS
KNOWN TO THE GOB AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE. WE WOULD
HOPE THAT THIS PROCEDURE WILL CLARIFY THE SITUATION.

3. QUESTION: HAS THE GOB BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE
USG?

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PAGE 02 STATE 108449

ANSWER: YES, WE WERE ASKED FOR OUR COOPERATION YESTERDAY

BEFORE GULF RESPONDED. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THIS IS A

MATTER WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF
BOLIVIA AND GULF OIL.

4. QUESTION: HAS THE DEPARTMENT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE
GULF OFFICIALS?

ANSWER: WE WERE INFORMED BY COMPANY OFFICIALS OF THE
INTERIM RESPONSE WHICH WAS RELEASED THIS MORNING TO THE
BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST THAT ANY FACTS RELATING TO
BOLIVIA BE MADE PUBLIC IMMEDIATELY. KISSINGER

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